

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

What a glorious day.....little wind and no rain. Lots of people deciding to Poddle..... a bit like the old days. So off we went to Ripon via Low Bridge (lots of E.Gs then lots of Wednesday riders and Steve P who did not feel like being hilly); onto Farnham (lots of overtaking and greetings from E.Gs and Wednesday Riders); along to Bishop Monkton (meeting W.E Jeremy stalwart in his car going to drive a bus); carrying on towards Littlethorpe (having lost Steve and Dennis to take a quick route home via Markinton and finding Zoe and Joe but nearly losing Geraldine who was nearly carried away by Norman); over the canal in Ripon to Newby Hall and uneventfully to Lister's Farm shop (cheese scones, teacakes, coffee, a superb looking bacon and egg sandwich, discussion on the NHS policies, Iran and NO Trumping or Farage as in Garage or Brexitting, thank goodness); home via Boroughbridge and Knaresborough Hill (escaping Geraldine retrieved, Joe did not collapse with his horrid cough and cold, Zoe had ticked all get boxes and Jen and Caroline had become very excited about the Revolution Series at the weekend.); so back home along Bog's Lane.... a good morning plus a bit more.....sorry we missed you Monica and Sue...35 miles at a very gentle pace (thank you), 20,363 paces and 87 floors. CG



Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

A hilly ride was planned for today, out towards Fewston, the weather had improved and sunshine was promised by the forecasters for Andrew's cycle ride. Ten choose to follow Andrew up and down dale, including two new members, Peter and Jonathon. Slight drizzle was felt as we reached the Stray and headed down Claro Road to the Greenway, but it soon cleared and the sun came out. The track had lots of slippery mounds of leaves on it and careful was the watch word, but soon the group reached Ripley. Along Hollybank Wood then up the lovely recently tarmacked track to Clint Bank, as the dog walkers waved us on and exchanged a few jovial remarks as we cycled past. The group swooped down into Birstwith and then along to Darley, the autumn views were superb. Along Thornthwaite Lane we cycled, then up to the A59 and soon the group reached Fewston Farm shop where drinks, cakes and bacon butties were devoured. As the day was bright and beautiful the group decided to add an extra loop. Now everything was going fine at this point as we swooped past Swinsty reservoir and up a lovely lane that most of us had not been on before. Going down the hill before we turned towards Stainburn, Liz P had a puncture. David went to the rescue and soon had the wheel off. Liz brought out one inner tube and this is where things went from bad to worse. The tyre would not pump up, so another, then another, then another pump was brought in to no avail. David and Jonathon valiantly then inserted another inner tube but this stayed flat, more pumps, advice and nearly everyone having a go but no it stayed flat. Mike tried to pump up the tyre and the banter was about his expertise with cows back ends but we won't go into details. Then our gallant new hero Peter, said he would go and fetch his car to take Liz home as he lived at Burnt Bridge not too far away. After a few more attempts with the gadgets and other pumps it still was flat. Though we don't leave anyone behind, Liz insisted that we go as time was moving on and it would be dark if we all stayed. Another new gallant hero stepped forward, Jonathon to stay with Liz until Peter came back with his car. Reluctantly we left Liz and Jonathon and headed down the track to Stainburn, Alison and Maris decided to head down towards Pool and take the backroads home, leaving the five of us to go along the track to Beckwith Shaw. Liz F headed for Killinghall and home, Andrew, Mike and the two David's headed towards Harrogate. Liz P informed me that she had arrived home safe and well. Many thanks to Peter and Jonathon, an eventful day with the Wanderers and hopefully it did not put them off coming out with the Wanderers again. On the long ride report was it Richard P also having trouble with his tyre how bizarre is that! Despite this little incident, it was a great ride out, thanks to Andrew about 32 miles with a few hills. Liz F





Wednesday Ride

Another cool but dry and sometimes sunny morning saw 14/15 Wednesday riders make our way to Low Bridge in (relatively) small groups where we suddenly became 20+ and eventually managed to divide and head off for Arkendale in three groups which somewhere along the way became two. A small diversion by the Duck Pond seemed to make the crossing of the main Knaresborough to Boroughbridge Road in Ferrensby a little easier and safer and the route through Arkendale and Great Ouseburn was enhanced by the appearance of the sun. At Thorpe Underwood a decision was taken to patronise the Tancred Farm Shop and Cafe where we caught up with the first group who had only nicely arrived. Not at all phased by the sudden appearance of twenty odd cyclists the staff took orders and delivered food and drinks as fast as they could and despite the distinct smell of burning on occasions the smoke alarms remained silent and no evacuation was required. After the usual photo shoot we headed back through Whixley and across the A59 and the railway line to Walshford and then on to Little Ribston where James deserted to head straight home to Knaresborough and the remainder took off for Spofforth and home to Harrogate. About 34/5 miles in the usual excellent company and another decent day weatherise. Thanks to all, James G.



Wednesday Long Ride

Terry Smith was not able to lead today's ride as he has sustained a fall, but not while riding his bike. The fall has resulted in minor damage to his hip but he will be out of action until the New Year. Richard P stepped in to lead the ride with the intention of going to Pateley Bridge. The ride set off to Little Almscliffe crag and then headed towards the A59, just past the Sun Inn Martin D received a phone call and had to return to Harrogate. At this point three riders broke away from the main group and missed the turning, aptly named Bedlam Lane, which Richard intended to take. That was the last we saw or heard from the three, except for a phone call informing us that they had arrived at Pateley Bridge.

That left five riders who made their way to Duck Street via a dogleg route, the A59 and Meagill Lane. When we reached Stonehouses Richard L elected to carry on to Braithwaite Lane and then meet up with us. The remaining four crossed over the dam at Thruscross reservoir and were making good time until approaching a steep downhill to cross the river Washburn. At this point Richard P's inner tube exploded and split his tyre. The split was along the tyre beading just level with the wheel rim.

Now enter the magic tooth paste tube, the metal variety. Wrapping the tube around the inner tube and making sure it overlapped near the split a repair was effected. The blue sliver in the photo is the tooth paste tube. The repair was so effective that Richard P instead of setting off for Harrogate decided to hunt down a tearoom. So we headed back down Duck Street to the Stonehouse Inn where we decided to try the Darley Mill tearoom which turned out to be closed. Now Richard P assured us that there was a tearoom in Dacre Banks, as Terry Smith had found it the other week. So, off we go up the hill and down the hill, we found a sign promising coffee but no tearoom. Then it was decided to go to Darley, so it was up the hill and down the hill again. Hey presto, at Darley we found the tearoom/village store that Terry Smith had found the other week. The tearoom part of the store was very cosy, seating for about 6 people, but very friendly and good food. While we were at the tearoom we contacted Richard L who joined us for the return ride to Harrogate. We decided to leave Darley via Sheepcote Lane and then take the Menwith Hill Road towards Birstwith but turned off to go to Kettlesing Bottom, and Tang before arriving at Hampsthwaite, and eventually Harrogate. The ride was only 40 miles, for some of us, with all the problems but was still a very pleasant ride. Richard's tyre repair survived the ride having completed about 15 to 20 miles and subjected to some rigorous testing. Peter J





EGs' Ride

Compared with recent weather, the actual weather plus the forecast was good.

At Low Bridge it looked like the whole of Wheel Easy had gathered, out of this gathering there were fifteen EG`s, enough for a rugby team, of late we could only manage a soccer team. First stop Spa Gardens cafe in Ripon. Men`s downhill at Occaney was an "easy peasy" for Dave Wonderwheels, no one came even close, despite him being severely challenged in past contests.

The group split up for comfort and safety, on a hillock in the distance could be seen some EG`s, however on getting closer, they were too good looking to be EG`s and turned out to be Ladies who "Puddle".

After caffeine and calories Norman took a group back to Boroughbridge, the remainder headed for Wath. At Wath it was decision time, Dave S fancied Thirsk and the cafe with the high beans rating i.e. quality and quantity. Dave P was heading for Topcliffe (where there is a route for Thirsk), however Dave Watson took the group north to approach Thirsk from the north (we shall see).

Dave P and Terry headed for Topcliffe and Boroughbridge, the temptation of Morrisons' Cafe was fought off and it was on to Harrogate in bright sunshine. Dave P had not cycled on the new resurfaced lane, so it was up the Beryl Burton track, however at the start both Terry and DP suffered badly from wheel spin on the thick carpet of wet leaves, so please be careful.

The resurfaced track was great, however the downside to this was that vehicles tended to travel faster, and as most of the track is barely two cars wide, and if vehicles are approaching each other (fast ?) there is no place for cyclists or pedestrians to go.

Might speed bumps help? A nice ride for Terry and Dave P.

Crossing the Stray in the sunshine met with Yvonne who had been up to the reservoirs, good to see you Yvonne, you are looking well.

Supplementary EGs' Report 1

As the weather was such a delight after 3 days of gloom and doom and lots of rain, it was too good an opportunity not to use it to the full. So when the ride started to head in a southerly direction at Sutton Howgrave, 3 of us - Colin P, Peter B, and myself - continued north to Bedale for a late lunch. Our usual pit-stop, the Bedale bakery/café was closed, and sadly it looked as if it will not be reopening again in the near future, so we used the café on the opposite side of the main street, serving excellent spicy pumpkin soup! We

retraced our route via Wath, Ripon and Knaresborough, making full use of the late November sunshine arriving home at 4.40pm. 63 miles for this Harlow Hillbilly. Eric

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Supplementary EGs' Report 2

Following our stopover at the Sun Parlour, Ripon, our leader, Dave P., led us to Wath, where he decided to cast us adrift heading off home with Terry W. Opinions differed as to our onward direction, some favouring Bedale but being winter, with limited light hours and it already being after noon, it was agreed to head north in a loop via Thornborough & Sutton Howgrave. It was here that Eric, Colin & Peter decided to follow their own tack and head for Bedale after all.

We remaining five were wary of the hour so continued on our way south with the cafe in Melmerby industrial estate in mind for a quick bite. We were served our usual fare with panache and after only 25 mins. we're able to continue on our route home, passing through Rainton, Marton-le-Moor & Boroughbridge.

At Staveley Ian diverted left towards Ferrensby, whilst the remaining quartet steadied the pace to reach for Knaresborough around 2.40pm and complete a satisfying 45 miles on a sunny but cold winter day.Dave W.





